Power crisis in Karnataka

711. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is facing severe power crisis and is not able to provide quality power to rural lighting and pump-sets, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government propose to set up coal-based power plant in the State;

(c) if so, the details of proposed plant cost and anticipated production of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April, 2001—January, 2002 the energy requirement in Karnataka was 26509 Million Units (MUs) while the availability was 23268 MUs representing a shortage of 12.2%. As per information available, as on 31st December, 2001, 26756 villages have been electrified out of total inhabited villages of 27066 (1991 census) and 1286185 pump-sets energized against an estimated ultimate potential of 1357000 electrical pump-sets in Karnataka. However, supply and distribution of power to various categories of consumers including supply to rural lighting, pump-sets etc. in the State is under the purview of State Government.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal for setting up a coal-based power plant in the State in Central Sector.

Need for allocation of power to Karnataka from unallocated share of Central Government

712. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India is aware of the acute shortage of power in Karnataka State due to demand-supply gap;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware of the requests of Karnataka for allotment of 100 MWs, of power from unallocated share of Central Government; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the request of Government of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?